

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A battery pack, comprising:

a plurality of parallel arranged battery modules, each battery module ~~consisting of~~ having a plurality of cells formed by encasing elements for electromotive force in prismatic cases, the cells being electrically connected in series and coupled together in one piece with gaps formed between opposing side faces of the cells ~~therebetween~~; and

a restraining tool having connecting members extending through the gaps at both ends of the parallel arranged battery modules and between two given cells,

the connection terminals that electrically connect the cells with each other protruding from respective opposing side faces of the cells that have the gaps formed therebetween, and

the restraining tool comprising end plates arranged at both ends in an alignment direction of the battery modules, and both ends of the connecting members being coupled to the end plates.

2. -3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The battery pack according to claim 1, wherein components for forming cooling medium passages between side faces of the cells are provided between the parallel arranged battery modules .

5. (Previously Presented) The battery pack according to claim 4, wherein the components forming the cooling medium passages are formed of separate spacer portions independently of the battery modules.

6. (Previously Presented) The battery pack according to claim 4, wherein the cell cases are made of a metal and the components forming the cooling medium passages are insulating spacer portions provided independently of the battery modules .

7. (Previously Presented) The battery pack according to claim 5, wherein the spacer portions have holder portions that fit in the gaps between the cells for positioning the cells.

8. (Previously Presented) The battery pack according to claim 5, wherein the spacer portions have projections that abut on the long side faces of the cells to form the cooling medium passages .

9. (Previously Presented) The battery pack according to claim 8, wherein heat dissipation fins facing the cooling medium passages are provided on the long side faces of the cells.

10. (Currently Amended) A battery pack, comprising:

a plurality of parallel arranged battery modules, each battery module consisting of a plurality of cells formed by encasing elements for electromotive force in prismatic cases, the cells being electrically connected with each other in series by connection terminals protruded on side faces thereof;

holders for the battery modules disposed between parallel arranged adjacent battery modules;

end plates arranged at both ends in an alignment direction of the battery modules;

and

connecting members extending through gaps at both ends of the battery modules and between two given cells and coupling both end plates together,

wherein each holder includes a spacer portion forming a cooling medium passage between side faces of the cells and holder portions provided on both sides of the spacer portion at locations corresponding to both sides of each cell for engaging with and retaining the cells, and

the connection terminals of the cells are protruded on respective short side faces of the cell cases, the gaps that make up the battery module are provided between the short side faces, and the cooling medium passages are formed between the long side faces of the cells.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The battery pack according to claim 10, wherein the holder portions of the holders engage with generally half or less of the width of the short side faces of the cells.

13. (Previously Presented) The battery pack according to claim 10, wherein the cell cases are made of a metal and the holders are made of an insulating material.

14. (Previously Presented) The battery pack according to claim 10, wherein the holder includes support portions at both ends, which are placed on support members, and one of the support portions is provided with a fixing bolt hole or screw hole.

15. (Previously Presented) The battery pack according to claim 14, wherein the support portions at both ends of the holders are formed with an engaging protrusion on one side and an engaging recess on the other side in which the engaging protrusion fits.

16. (Previously Presented) The battery pack according to claim 10, wherein the holder portions of the holders include support projections on the top and the bottom, which are engaged with an upper case and a lower case covering the battery pack.

17. (Previously Presented) The battery pack according to claim 10, wherein the spacer portions have projections that abut on the long side faces of the cells to form the cooling medium passages

18. (Previously Presented) The battery pack according to claim 17, wherein heat dissipation fins facing the cooling medium passages are provided on the long side faces of the cells.

19. (Previously Presented) The battery pack according to claim 1, wherein the connecting members are arranged on both sides of each of the cells of the battery modules.

20. (Previously Presented) The battery pack according to claim 4, wherein heat dissipation fins forming the cooling medium passages are provided on the long side faces of the cells.

21. (Previously Presented) The battery pack according to claim 9, wherein the heat dissipation fins are resiliently pressed against the long side faces of the cells by pressure applied from the spacer portions forming the cooling medium passages.